



PRESS RELEASE

Nagaland Pickleball Association Announces Inaugural Mithun Rhino Pickleball Championship & State Trials

Kohima / Dimapur | February 2026

The Nagaland Pickleball Association (NPA) is pleased to officially announce the Inaugural Mithun Rhino Pickleball Championship, an interstate championship between Nagaland and Assam, scheduled to be held on 14–15 March 2026 at The Fitness House.

The championship is envisioned as a landmark sporting initiative aimed at strengthening interstate relations through sport and positioning the Northeast as a growing force in pickleball at the national level. The tournament will also serve as a key preparatory platform ahead of the upcoming Northeast Interstate Championship scheduled for May 2026.

Championship Categories

Men's Interstate Team Championship
(2 Men's Singles + 2 Doubles)

Men's Veterans Interstate Team
Championship (40+) (best of 3 doubles)

OPEN CATEGORIES

Men's Singles (4 players)

Men's Doubles (4 teams)

Mixed Doubles (4 teams)

Women's Doubles (2 teams)

Veterans doubles 40 (2 teams)

Veterans doubles 45+ (2 teams)

All matches will be played in a Best of 3 format, games to 11 points, with a win-by-2 (deuce) rule in effect.

Nagaland State Trials Announcement

In preparation for the interstate championship, the Nagaland Pickleball Association will conduct official state trials to select players for the Men's Interstate Team and Men's Veterans Interstate Team. Trials Date: Saturday, 7th March 2026. Venue: The Fitness House (TFH). Selection Process: The selection process will be conducted in a transparent and merit-based manner, based on: Skill assessment rounds

Match play performance

Game temperament and consistency
Tactical understanding and team coordination
Fitness and match readiness

Players will be evaluated by the Technical Committee and designated selectors. Final team selections will be announced following completion of the trials.

Eligibility: Open to registered pickleball players from Nagaland

Veterans category: 40 years and above (age verification required)

Players must commit to full participation in the interstate championship if selected

Awards & Recognition: Interstate Team Championships: Champion teams will receive Championship Trophies.

Open Categories: Individual trophies will be awarded to Winners and Runners-up.

Winner and Runner-up Certificates will be presented across all categories.

Prize money details will be announced in due course.

Vision of the Championship

The Mithun Rhino Pickleball Championship is not merely a competition but the beginning of a long-term sporting movement in the region. The NPA aims to:

Build a structured competitive pathway for athletes. Strengthen interstate sporting relations. Develop a sustainable annual pickleball IP in Nagaland. Prepare players for larger Northeast and national competitions

The Nagaland Pickleball Association invites all eligible players to register for the state trials and be part of this historic first edition.

For registration and further details, players are requested to contact the Nagaland Pickleball Association or follow official announcements on NPA platforms.

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Nagaland Pickleball Association
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